Chairperson, COTUL
Vice Chairperson, COTUL,
Executive Committee, COTUL
Workshop Participants,
Workshop Facilitators,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish first and foremost to welcome all of you in Mwanza. Special welcome is extended to participants from outside SAUT and in particular who have traveled a long distance from various places in Tanzania and beyond to participate in this important training workshop. I am aware that the workshop has brought together, Librarians and Researchers from SAUT as well as from other academic and research institutions in Tanzania. You are most welcome to the Saint Augustine University of Tanzania for the workshop business but also for other academic and research undertakings. Please be reminded that, as Information professionals, you shoulder a huge responsibility in the national development; because Information, which is your main area of specialization, has become the most precious resource in the 21st century. I am aware that delegates to this workshop come from almost all regions of Tanzania. You will all agree with me that you have put up strong effort to leave aside their families and job responsibilities to express their solidarity towards the goal of promoting the effective use of e-resources towards education and research enhancement in Tanzania.

COTUL Chairperson,
Let me take this same opportunity to thank the Organizing Committee for giving me the honour of officiating the opening of this two-day training workshop and Annual General Meeting. I understand that every year, COTUL organizes a series of training on various themes around electronic information
search and retrieval techniques. However, this year’s theme focus on “Discovery and Utilization of E-Resources for Supporting Research, Teaching and Learning Reference”. I am therefore glad to have an opportunity of sharing my views with you towards enhancing the quality of research and education through having these competencies.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Access and retrieval of information in the digital environment have become vital in enhancing the quality of learning, teaching and conducting research in our institutions. In this era of knowledge and technology, we know that through ICT we are receiving a lot of information; the challenge is on discovering appropriate content. I have been informed that most institutions do not exploit the available information resources subscribed by COTUL and through development partners due limited skills and marketing strategies. I believe the workshop will add value in your competences in e-resources discovery skills as well as marketing services.

Skills on effective exploitation of online information resources are thus very important to all stakeholders in the academic and research environment. I am informed that at this workshop you will focus on the online search strategies particularly to all databases that are subscribed to by COTUL and Research for Life Programme [R4L] databases that provide low-income countries throughout the world, primarily Africa, free or low cost access to the world’s journal literature in both, social and natural sciences. In fact, having knowledge on all of these issues make you confident while delivering information services in the online environment. It is also necessary for you to have such skills so that you can effectively orient your users on effective exploitation of online information.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to urge you to share your experiences and engage in practical deliberations during the workshop. Also, when you go back, share the knowledge you gained with the rest of your staff who did not have the opportunity to attend the workshop. The knowledge and skills that you are going to acquire here should be imparted to other staff in your respective organizations.

Dear participants, please, while in Mwanza, don’t miss the opportunity to visit various tourism attractions available in Mwanza including Saanane Island National Park and other attracting areas.
With these few remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare that “COTUL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON WORKSHOP ON DISCOVERY AND UTILIZATION OF E-RESOURCES FOR SUPPORTING RESEARCH, TEACHING AND LEARNING AND AGM” is officially open. I wish you all the best and thank you for your attention.